

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub E² > 1. A nasal dilator (for preventing outer wall tissue of nasal passages of a nose from drawing in during breathing), comprising:

a truss member including:

a first end region (adapted to engage the outer wall tissue of a first nasal passage);

a second end region (adapted to engage the outer wall tissue of a second nasal passage);

an intermediate segment coupling the first end region to the second end region and configured to traverse a portion of a nose located between the first and second nasal passages; and

resilient means extending along the truss member and having end portions that terminate at least at sections of end edges of the first and second end regions, the resilient means acting to stabilize the outer wall tissue and thereby prevent the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages from drawing in during breathing.

2. The nasal dilator of claim 1 wherein the truss member includes:

a flexible strip of base material defining the first and second end regions and the intermediate segment, the resilient

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E
member
~~means~~, secured to a first side of the flexible strip of base material.

3. The nasal dilator of claim 2, and further including:

an adhesive substance located on a second side of the flexible strip of base material at the first and second end regions and the intermediate segment thereof for releasably securing the truss member to the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages.

4. The nasal dilator of claim 3, and further including:

first and second release liners covering the adhesive substance on the first and second end regions and the intermediate segment of the flexible strip of base material, the first and second release liners being readily removable from the flexible strip of base material to expose the adhesive substance and permit the truss member to be secured to the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages.

Sub E3 
~~5. The nasal dilator of claim 2 wherein the resilient means includes:~~

~~a first resilient band secured to the flexible strip of base material adjacent a first edge thereof; and~~

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a second resilient band secured to the flexible strip of base material at a second edge thereof, the second resilient band being spaced from and extending generally parallel to the first resilient band.

11/8. The nasal dilator of claim ¹⁰8 wherein the first and second resilient bands are secured to the first side of the flexible strip of base material via an interface adhesive material.

12/8. The nasal dilator of claim ¹¹8 and further including:

a strip of top material that covers the first and second resilient bands and is adhesively secured to the flexible strip of base material.

6/8. The nasal dilator of claim 1, and further including:

means at the end edges of the first and second end regions for preventing inadvertent delamination of the strip of base material from the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages caused by dilating forces imparted to the strip of base material by the resilient means.

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7/8. The nasal dilator of claim 8 wherein the means for preventing delamination includes a discontinuity of shape between first and second portions of the end edges of the first and second end regions of the truss member.

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~~10. The nasal dilator of claim 9 wherein the discontinuity of shape is a back cut located between a portion of the resilient means and a further portion of the truss member at first and second end regions of the truss member.~~

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8 11. The nasal dilator of claim 1 wherein the end edge of each of the first and second end regions has a section of protrusions of a first length and a section of extensions of a second length different from the first length.

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9 12. The nasal dilator of claim 11 wherein the extensions are longer than the protrusions.

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13. The nasal dilator of claim 8 wherein the end edges of the first and second end regions are shaped with radius corners to prevent inadvertent peeling of the strip of base material from the outer wall tissue of the first and second nasal passages caused by dilating forces imparted to the strip of base material by the resilient bands.

14. The nasal dilator of claim 13 wherein the end edges of each of the first and second end regions includes:

a pair of spaced, first and second protrusions that are defined by the

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first and second resilient bands,
respectively; and

a pair of spaced, first and second
extensions, the first and second
extensions being located outboard and
extending past the first and second
protrusions, respectively, to prevent
inadvertent peeling of the strip of base
material from the outer wall tissue of
the first and second nasal passages.

15. The nasal dilator of claim 14 wherein
respective first extensions and protrusions and
respective second extensions and protrusions are
separated by back cut portions in the truss member that
distribute delaminating forces, caused by the first and
second resilient bands, to the first and second end
regions.

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16. The nasal dilator of claim 2 wherein the
resilient ^{member} ~~means~~ includes:

at least one resilient band oriented
substantially parallel to a longitudinal
extent of the flexible strip of base
material, the resiliency of the at least
one resilient band acting to prevent the
outer wall tissue of the first and
second nasal passages from drawing in
during breathing.

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